

In 1998, Congress passed and President Clinton signed the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which created a temporary moratorium on Internet access taxes as well as discriminatory or duplicative taxes on e-commerce. The moratorium was established to encourage universal access to the Internet as well as help promote e-commerce. This policy has been a resounding success and has been particularly beneficial for Silicon Valley, fostering growth in productivity and innovation and widening public access to information. Congress has extended the Internet tax moratorium twice before, in 2001 and 2004, and both times included provisions to make specific needed adjustments in the moratorium's provisions. This week I voted with an overwhelming majority of my colleagues in the House to approve [another four-year extension](#), allowing Congress to re-visit the moratorium in 2011 and determine if further adjustments need to be made. I also support a permanent extension of the moratorium and have cosponsored legislation authored by my Silicon Valley Colleague Rep. Anna Eshoo, the [Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act](#)

. Unfortunately, at this time it appears that it is not possible to pass a permanent moratorium through the Senate. This week's bill is therefore critical, as we must pass legislation before the current moratorium expires on November 1st to ensure that there is no lapse in the moratorium.